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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/758,625	01/11/2001	Ralph H. Echols	2000-IP-001727 8980	
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Marlin R. Smith, Esq.			EXAMINER	
Konneket & Smith, P.C. Suite 230			REVIS, ELIZABETH A	
660 North Cent			ART UNIT	5.555
Plano, TX 750	174		ARTUNII	PAPER NUMBER
			1723	
			DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002	8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Examiner		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Period for Reply	•	09/758,625	ECHOLS ET AL.				
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extension of the many be available used the provisions of 3 CFR 1-13(a). In or event, however, may a risply be timely filled to the many be available used the provisions of 3 CFR 1-13(a). In or event, however, may a risply be timely filled the statution of the provision of the period for risply specified above, the maximum cantaincy period vall goal and laughter (s) (4) MONTH's form the making date of this communication. If the period for risply specified above, the maximum clastropy period vall goal and laughter (s) (4) MONTH's form the making date of this communication. If the period for risply specified above, the maximum date, asset the application to become ABANDONEO (35 U.S.C. § 133). If the period for risply specified above, the maximum date of the communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any extend pathetic the making date of the communication. The properties of the period of the communication and timely filed, may reduce any extend pathetic the making date of the communication and timely filed. 1) ☑ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2002. 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☑ This action is non-final. 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) ☑ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s)	. Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
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Application/Control Number: 09/758,625

`Art Unit: 1723

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group I Claims 1-15 in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)) and is made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- 3. Claims 1-2 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ross (5,964,296). With respect to claim 1, Ross discloses a well screen (26) comprising a sidewall including a material and at least one line (80) embedded in the sidewall material (column 6, lines 11-18).
- 4. With respect to claim 2, Ross discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1. Ross also discloses wherein the line extends generally longitudinally through the sidewall (column 6, lines 11-18 and figure 2).

Application/Control Number: 09/758,625 Page 3

Art Unit: 1723

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 6. Claims 3 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross (5,964,296) in view of Mullen et al. (6,148,915). With respect to claim 3, Ross discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1. Ross does not disclose further comprising a filter media and wherein said filter media is recessed in the sidewall material.

Mullen et al. teaches further comprising a filter media (14), and wherein the filter media is recessed in the sidewall. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place a filter media in the sidewall of Ross, as taught by Mullen et al. to provide a degree of stabilization for the formation (column 3, lines 15-20).

With respect to claim 8, Ross discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1.

Ross does not disclose further comprising a filter media and wherein the filter media is expandable in the wellbore.

Mullen et al. teaches further comprising a filter media (14), and wherein the filter media is expandable in the well bore. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place the expandable filter media in Ross, as taught by Mullen et al. to provide a degree of stabilization for the formation (column 3, lines 15-20)

Application/Control Number: 09/758,625

*Art Unit: 1723

With respect to claim 9, Ross in view of Mullen et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1. Ross also discloses the presence of at least one sensor (78) connected to the line.

With respect to claim 10-11, Ross in view of Mullen discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 9. Ross also discloses wherein the sensor senses a parameter external and internal, respectively, to the well screen (bridge between columns 5 and 6).

With respect to claim 12, Ross in view of Mullen et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1. Ross also discloses further comprising an actuator (74) connected to the line.

With respect to claim 13, Ross in view of Mullen et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1. Mullen et al. also discloses further comprising a flow control device (74) connected to the line.

7. Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross in view of Mullen et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Gissler et al. (6,269,883).

With respect to claim 14, Ross in view of Mullen et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1. Ross. in view of Mullen et al. do not disclose wherein the line is a selected one of a communication line, an injection line, a power line, a control line, and a monitoring line.

Gissler et al. teaches wherein said line is a power line (column 6, lines 55-60). It would have been obvious to include a power line in Ross in view of Mullen et al. as taught by Gissler et al. to supply electrical power downhole to the wellscreen (column 6, lines 55-60).

Application/Control Number: 09/758,625

Art Unit: 1723

With respect to claim 15, Ross in view of Mullen et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1. Ross in view of Mullen et al. do not disclose wherein the line is a selected one of a hydraulic line, electrical line, and a fiber optic line.

Gissler et al. teaches wherein said line is an electrical line (column 6, lines 55-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place the electrical line of Gissler et al. in Ross in view of Mullen et al. to supply electrical power (column 6, lines 55-60).

8. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross. in view of Mullen et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Freidrich et al. (5,460,416).

With respect to claim 4, Ross in view of Mullen et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 1. Ross in view of Mullen et al. do not disclose the material of the sidewall.

Freidrich et al. teaches wherein the sidewall material is nonmetallic (Col. 4, Lines 25-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the sidewall material of Ross in view of Mullen et al. nonmetallic, as taught by Freidrich et al. so that it does not corrode when subjected to down-hole conditions (Col. 4, Lines 25-30).

With respect to claim 5, Ross in view of Mullen et al. and further in view of Freidrich et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 4. Mullen et al. also discloses wherein flow passages are formed through the sidewall, and further comprising a generally tubular protective shield (114) lining each of the flow passages.

With respect to claim 6, Ross in view of Mullen et al. and further in view of Freidrich et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 5. Mullen et al. also discloses further

comprising a flexible retainer (50) disposed between each shield and the representative flow passage.

With respect to claim 7, Ross in view of Mullen et al. and further in view of Freidrich et al. discloses the well screen as disclosed above in claim 4. Freidrich et al. also discloses wherein the sidewall material is a composite material (Col. 5, Lines 50-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place the composite material in Ross. in view of Mullen et al., as taught by Freidrich et al. so that it does not corrode when subjected to down-hole conditions (Col. 4, Lines 25-30).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth Revis whose telephone number is 703-305-3437. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 703-308-0457. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

ER July 1, 2002 JOSEPHW. DRODGE DRIMARY EXAMINER